IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition, which comprises (A) a liquid silicone rubber base comprising (a-1) a liquid diorganopolysiloxane having at least two alkenyl groups per molecule and a viscosity at 25 °C not less than 100 mPa·s and not more than 100,000 mPa·s and (a-4) a reinforcing filler, (a-2) an organopolysiloxane having at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule, and (a-3) a platinum catalyst, (B^1) an aqueous solution of (b-1) a water-soluble polymer comprising sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer, said water-soluble polymer being present in said component (B^1) in an amount of from [[0.01]]0.1 to 5 % by weight, and (C) an emulsifying agent, and in which (a-1) to (a-3) or (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A) form an addition-curable type liquid silicone rubber composition, component (B^1) is contained in a proportion ranging from 50 to 250 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the total of (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A) and component (C) is contained in a proportion ranging from 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the total of (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A).

2. (Currently Amended) A method for producing [[the]]a silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition ~~according to claim 1~~, wherein an addition-curable type liquid silicone rubber composition is prepared by mixing (A) a liquid silicone rubber base made up of (a-1) a liquid diorganopolysiloxane having at least two alkenyl groups per molecule and a viscosity at 25 °C not less than 100 mPa·s and not more than 100,000 mPa·s and (a-4) a reinforcing filler, (a-2) an organopolysiloxane having at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule, and (a-3) a platinum catalyst and an emulsion is made by mixing the addition-curable type liquid silicone rubber composition with (B^1) an aqueous solution of (b-1) a water-soluble polymer, the water-soluble polymer being present in component (B^1) in an amount of from [[0.01]]0.1 to 5 % by weight, and (C) an emulsifying agent.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for producing [[the]]a silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition ~~according to claim 1~~, wherein an emulsion is produced by mixing (A) a liquid silicone rubber base comprising (a-1) a liquid diorganopolysiloxane having at least two alkenyl groups per molecule and a viscosity at 25 °C not less than 100 mPa·s and not more than 100,000 mPa·s and (a-4) a reinforcing filler, (B^1) an aqueous solution of (b-1) a water-soluble polymer, the water-soluble polymer being present in component (B^1) in an amount of from [[0.01]]0.1 to 5 % by weight, and (C) an emulsifying agent, and the emulsion is mixed with (a-2) an organopolysiloxane having at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule and (a-3) a platinum catalyst.

4. (Currently Amended) A silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition, which comprises (A) a liquid silicone rubber base comprising (a-1) a liquid diorganopolysiloxane having at least two alkenyl groups per molecule and a viscosity at 25 °C not less than 100 mPa·s and not more than 100,000 mPa·s and (a-4) a reinforcing filler, (a-2) an organopolysiloxane having at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule, (a-3) a platinum catalyst, (B^2) an aqueous solution of (b-1) a water-soluble polymer comprising sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer~~, said water-soluble polymer being present in said component (B^2) in an amount of from 0.01 to 5 % by weight,~~ and (C) an emulsifying agent, said water-soluble polymer being present in said component (B^2) in an amount of from 0.1 to 5 % by weight, and in which (a-1) to (a-3) or (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A) form an addition-curable type liquid silicone rubber composition, component (b-1) and water are contained in a proportion ranging from 10 to 250 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the total of (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A) and component (C) is contained in a proportion ranging from 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the total of (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A).

5. (Currently Amended) The silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein ~~component (b-1) is~~ said sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer is selected from the group consisting of sodium salt of polyacrylic acid, sodium salt of polymethacrylic acid, and

sodium salt of polyacrylic acid/methacrylic acid, and combinations thereof, and component (C) is a nonionic surface active agent.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 2, wherein component (b-1) is sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer and component (C) is a nonionic surface active agent.

9. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 8, wherein the sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer is ~~the sodium salt of polyacrylic acid~~ selected from the group consisting of sodium salt of polyacrylic acid, sodium salt of polymethacrylic acid, and sodium salt of polyacrylic acid/methacrylic acid, and combinations thereof.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a silicone rubber sponge, wherein the silicone rubber sponge is obtained by forming a moist silicone rubber-like molding by curing [[the]]a silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition ~~according to claim 1~~ and then evaporating water from the molding by heating[[.]], wherein the silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition comprises (A) a liquid silicone rubber base comprising (a-1) a liquid diorganopolysiloxane having at least two alkenyl groups per molecule and a viscosity at 25 °C not less than 100 mPa·s and not more than 100,000 mPa·s and (a-4) a reinforcing filler, (a-2) an organopolysiloxane having at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule, and (a-3) a platinum catalyst, (B^1) an aqueous solution of (b-1) a water-soluble polymer, the water-soluble polymer being present in component (B^1) in an amount of from 0.1 to 5 % by weight, and (C) an

emulsifying agent, and in which (a-1) to (a-3) or (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A) form an addition-curable type liquid silicone rubber composition, component (B^1) is contained in a proportion ranging from 10 to 250 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the total of (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A) and component (C) is contained in a proportion ranging from 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the total of (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A).

12. (Original) The method for producing a silicone rubber sponge according to claim 11, wherein the silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition is cured at a temperature between room temperature and less than 120°C and the cured product is heated at 120°C to 250°C.

13. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a silicone rubber sponge according to claim 11, wherein the silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition does not contain air bubbles.

14. (Previously Presented) The silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 4, wherein component (b-1) is sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer and component (C) is a nonionic surface active agent.

15. (Currently Amended) The silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 14, wherein the sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer is ~~sodium salt of polyacrylic acid~~ selected from the group consisting of sodium salt of polyacrylic acid, sodium salt of polymethacrylic acid, and sodium salt of polyacrylic acid/methacrylic acid, and combinations thereof.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 3, wherein component (b-1) is sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer and component (C) is a nonionic surface active agent.

18. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 17, wherein the sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer is ~~the sodium salt of polyacrylic acid~~ selected from the group consisting of sodium salt of polyacrylic acid, sodium salt of polymethacrylic acid, and sodium salt of polyacrylic acid/methacrylic acid, and combinations thereof.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a silicone rubber sponge, wherein the silicone rubber sponge is obtained by forming a moist silicone rubber-like molding by curing [[the]]a silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition ~~according to claim 4~~ and then evaporating water from the molding by heating[[.]], wherein the silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition comprises (A) a liquid silicone rubber base comprising (a-1) a liquid diorganopolysiloxane having at least two alkenyl groups per molecule and a viscosity at 25 °C not less than 100 mPa·s and not more than 100,000 mPa·s and (a-4) a reinforcing filler, (a-2) an organopolysiloxane having at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule, (a-3) a platinum catalyst, (B^2) an aqueous solution of (b-1) a water-soluble polymer and (C) an emulsifying agent, said water-soluble polymer being present in said component (B^2) in an amount of from 0.1 to 5 % by weight, and in which (a-1) to (a-3) or (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A) form an addition-curable type liquid silicone rubber composition, component (b-1) and water are contained in a proportion ranging from 10 to 250 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the total of (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A) and component (C) is contained in a proportion ranging from 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the total of (a-1) to (a-4) in component (A).

21. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a silicone rubber sponge according to claim 20, wherein the silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition is cured at a temperature between room temperature and 120 °C and the cured product is heated at a temperature of from 120 °C to 250 °C.

22. (Previously Presented) The silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein component (a-4) is added in an amount of 1 to 60 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of component (a-1).

23. (Previously Presented) The silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 4, wherein component (a-4) is added in an amount of 1 to 60 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of component (a-1).

Please add the following new claims:

24. (New) The silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer is selected from the group consisting of sodium salt of polyacrylic acid, sodium salt of polymethacrylic acid, sodium salt of polyacrylic acid/methacrylic acid, and combinations thereof.

25. (New) The silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 4, wherein the sodium salt of an acrylic acid polymer is selected from the group consisting of sodium salt of polyacrylic acid, sodium salt of polymethacrylic acid, sodium salt of polyacrylic acid/methacrylic acid, and combinations thereof.

26. (New) A method for producing a silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition, wherein an emulsion is produced by mixing (A) a liquid silicone rubber base comprising (a-1) a liquid diorganopolysiloxane having at least two alkenyl groups per molecule and a viscosity at 25 °C not less than 100 mPa·s and not more than 100,000 mPa·s and (a-4) a reinforcing filler and (B^1) an aqueous solution of (b-1) a water-soluble polymer and (C) an emulsifying agent, the water-soluble polymer being present in component (B^1) in an amount of from 0.1 to 5 % by weight, and the emulsion is mixed with (a-2) an organopolysiloxane having at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule and (a-3) a platinum catalyst.

27. (New) The silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble polymer further comprises carboxymethyl cellulose.

28. (New) The silicone rubber sponge emulsion composition according to claim 4, wherein the water-soluble polymer further comprises carboxymethyl cellulose.